

GARDENING IN GEORGETOWN

By Ted Teppo, 10-year Georgetown resident

When I first moved to Georgetown it was spring. My love of old homes prompted me to explore, and I began to notice the gardens, some overflowing onto sidewalks, and some partially hidden from the street. I began to meet other neighbors at community meetings. Never good with names, I would connect them mentally with their gardens. “Oh, you’re in the house with the purple wisteria,” or “You have that beautiful rose next to the house.” I was the guy with the camellias in the yard, and not much else. I never really considered myself a gardener, as I wasn’t too enthusiastic about digging, or making the huge time commitment needed to have a beautiful garden.

My second year in the house, I made the commitment to do the backbreaking work of putting in a pond. I figured it would make for a lot less lawn to mow. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that this old riverbed soil is free of rocks and quite easy to dig. I tore out more grass, and replaced it with things that didn’t need mowing. To my surprise, perennials grew with very little care, and a pink dogwood flourished. Little by little, I added to the garden: trees, shrubs, flowers, vines, brick walkways, patios, and a garden shed built from old house parts scavenged from neighborhood alleys. I met other “gardeners,” and was invited to be part of the annual Georgetown Arts and Garden Tour. I joined the Georgetown Garden Club, which regularly plants and tends street trees and traffic circles. Our mutual interest and our working together has forged bonds and has led to lasting friendships.

The Georgetown Garden Walk takes place annually on the second Sunday in July. For more info, see our website: www.cityofseattle.net/commnty/georgetown.



Trees of Interest in South Georgetown

- 6901 Ellis Avenue S
Monkey Puzzle tree, many others exist in the neighborhood
- 6616 Flora Avenue S
Two large Silver Maples
- 6611 Flora Avenue S
Contorted Willow
- 6420 Flora Avenue S
Redwood tree planted in 1982 in forest-like setting
- 6417 Flora Avenue S
Douglas Fir, an excellent example of many found in Georgetown
- 6420 Carleton Avenue S
Lombardy Poplar, Georgetown’s most prominent tree
- 6230 Carleton Avenue S
Lawson Cypress, many other varieties nearby
- 6244 Corson Avenue S
Two Camellias, good examples of the many found in Georgetown